Bud's Copy

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1999

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The Titusville Radio Club officers and Board of Directors for the year 2000 were nominated and voted into office at the November meeting. In accordance with the by-laws these newly elected officers will be installed at the December meeting.

The 1999 officers and board members were approached by the nominating committee and all agreed to run again for 2000. On election night nominations were requested from the floor. There were no new nominees and all 1999 officers and board members were elected for another term. The officers and board members will strive to the best of their abilities to earn the trust you have placed in them. As always, they need your continued support.

My sincere thanks to our fellow club members for the communications for the communications support rendered to Coach Canfield during the 1999 FHSAA Florida Finals held at the BCC Campus in Titusville. TARC was given credit for services rendered and is included in the publication "1999 FHSAA Florida Cross Country Finals", under the heading "1999 Florida Finals Support Staff", page 2.

Kudos to those who manned the com-center, braved the weather in the opening and closing barricades, directed traffic, retrieved runner's shoes lost in ankle deep mud, fought off the rain and relayed messages from all points along the 3 mile track. TARC members also provided information and directions to the multitude in attendance, peddled a mobile bicycle from one end of the campus to the other delivering back-up hand held (HTs) batteries and other supplies as needed. Last but not least, our team provided much needed communications from around the track back to the com center with information including the reporting of the location and status of the runners.

The gang from central Brevard, LISATS, ATV & BEARS brought the COM1 Unit to the campus. With COM1 being the central control station the TV monitors were installed to receive video from the various camera sites. Cameramen set up their equipment at strategic locations and bingo! Very good pictures were provided for viewing the runners as they proceeded around the 3 mile track. My sincere thanks to all the fellow hams for coming up from central Brevard and providing the ATV service.

Titusville will be the host-city next year for the state track meet and we look forward to supporting Coach Canfield in the 2000 event. Our congratulations to Coach Canfield for his leadership in making this event a success.

The November 6 TARC tailgate/flea market was a suggess. I am so proud of this club .....SEE PAGE 2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 01 WB4ZUZ THERESA VALEK
DEC. 02 NE4XT BILL DiMEO
DEC. 02 KF4NSX CHRIS MARSDEN
DEC. 03 KS4FB TED LARRABEE
DEC. 06 K4DWW DICK STAUFFER
DEC. 06 N4LEM RAY KASSIS
DEC. 07 KU4ZO SHERRY HUGHES
DEC. 08 WN4YKC DON HATFIELD
DEC. 08 KE4KCT CHARLES FROST
DEC. 08 KE4MXB BONNIE FROST
DEC. 08 KB4ETY BRUCE HUNTER
DEC. 09 KC4VIO JOSE RAMOS
DEC. 10 KC4UUX ALAN MARSDEN
DEC. 11 KB4VHS GLENN LEE
DEC. 11 KU4NR CHUCK MANION
DEC. 12 AF4N WES WHITLEY
DEC. 15 KF4IGO JUNE FOSTER
DEC. 16 W0LRC COFFEE COFFMAN
DEC. 18 KF4LTW TOM VICK
DEC. 19 W8OFR GENE HALL
DEC. 20 KE4MWY DAN CHYCOTA
DEC. 20 KF4QIP MICHAEL ALBRO
DEC. 20 KE4WWO MATTIE ADAMS
DEC. 21 KD4RLS WILLIAM MERRILL
DEC. 24 N4SCY OZZIE OSBAND
DEC. 25 W2STS JESS LEGRAND
DEC. 29 KE4EJ SANDY WHITLEY

PRESIDENT from page 1.... and especially the ladies for the way they took the leadership roles and made things come together. The net profit from the sale of food and tickets was $445.06.

SCATS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

e-mail from Ralph, AE4LE

I have started my Christmas membership drive. Join SCATS (Space Coast Amateur Television Society) until the end of the year for FREE! Just send your name, call, license class, e-mail address, phone number, address to w4rp@qsl.net, and receive a nice membership certificate suitable for framing, plus be on the 'know' with ATV updates, news and information. Support Brevard ATV activities! Please pass this along to anyone who may be interested. *Rich Pemble, W4RP*

There is an A.T.V. repeater on top of the Harris 400' tower. Several hams from PCARS and HIARC are already sending and receiving pictures. We hope that this will be fun and also another medium of communication for our emergency effort. *Clayton Bennett, KA4NHW.* e-mail: cbennett@intersil.com

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

From W5YI Report of 12/1/99

IBM, as tired as everyone else from fighting off computer viruses, is fighting back. The *Digital immune System* is a product that sets out to examine computer files quickly for potentially damaging instructions, and "correct" them before they get a chance to wreak havoc on a computer network.

Rather than force individual users to load anit-virus software on their own systems, DIS looks for and repairs viruses much faster - the goal is to get rid of viruses even before the user is aware of them.

Since about 10 viruses a day are unleashed into the world, and there are already more than 20,000 of them, the DIS is a growing operation. IBM engineers are already working on equations to help predict how many viruses could exist within a particular group of files.

"Get a Bigger Hammer" Dept

Why use solder at all? Some electronics companies are bypassing solder altogether when assembling their printed-circuit board backplanes, relying on press-fit technology. Connector pins in this medium are made with slightly bulging end points, and by forcing the pins into their corresponding holes, the pins are squeezed so tightly against the interior metal walls that a good electrical connection is completed. The light layer of solder within the holes themselves actually melts due to the mechanical stress.

A bogus radio operator is endangering thousands of aircraft passengers and crew by transmitting false control tower instructions to pilots flying in and out of a major British airport. Airline chiefs say the prankster, who broadcasts on the same frequency as air traffic controllers, has given false orders to pilots on the ground at Manchester Airport and has issued dangerous instructions to airborne captains approaching the airport to suddenly climb or descent.

In one case, it is understood he gave a pilot clearance to line up for a take-off that would have caused a catastrophic collision. When the captain checked the instruction, air traffic control said no such order had been issued and told him to halt the aircraft immediately. A major hunt is underway for the man, who is thought to have broadcast from a car park at or near the airport. The civil aviation authority changed the radio frequency used at Manchester Airport and warned pilots to be alert.

Is Bib Brother reading your e-mail?

If the suspicions of Rep. Bob Barr (E-Georgia), the American Civil Liberties Union and cyber-libertarian "hacktivist" are correct, your fax or e-mail containing certain key words have been intercepted by a sophisticated official electronic sniffing system called "Echelon." Barr has persuaded Congress to open hearings on the question of Echelon's existence and reach.

The Echelon global spying network supposedly is a super secret surveillance system, run by the U. S. National Security Agency (NSA) in conjunction with the governments of Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The network reportedly can eavesdrop on any phone call, fax, or email, anywhere on earth.

Supposedly Echelon intercepts and sifts through countless electronic transmissions daily, filtering out those with certain suspicious words that might signal some sort of security threat for further analysis.

NSA will not confirm the existence of Echelon but much information has leaked out or been uncovered by various journalists and investigators. Echelon was supposedly organized after World War II, chiefly as a way for participating countries to intercept Soviet communications.

With the Russian threat gone, there is evidence that Echelon is now being used around the world for commercial espionage and keeping tabs on non-military targets. Groups such as the ACLU allege that Echelon's technology and structure makes the unregulated monitoring of e-mails, faxes and phone calls possible - despite laws requiring court permission to eavesdrop on private citizens.

The British Broadcasting Corporation recently reported that an Australian government official has confirmed what both the Americans and British have consistently denied - that the super-secret spy network indeed exists.

"If these reports are accurate, the sheer power and potential for abuse created by Project Echelon demands congressional attention," Rep. Bob Barr said in a statement released by his office.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

NEGLECTING THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

From 12/99 QST Correspondence

I am a totally blind ham and I enjoy receiving QST through the National Library Service. As I read the QST "Product Reviews" I've been pleased to note that at least a couple of companies are beginning to offer voice-readout options for many transceiver functions, including frequency displays.

I wonder when transceiver manufacturers will realize just how many blind hams there are in the Amateur Radio community? Voice-readout options should be available for all new transceivers. And they should work with *all* functions, not just a few.

I hope some of the manufacturers will realize that there are a lot of hams who are blind or partially sighted. Many of us will be happy to pay for a full-featured voice-readout option if it is made available. It means a lot more to us than just a clever gimmick. *John Jacques, KG7FA,*

SLIPERY SLOPE

There is a growing sentiment among some state and federal legislators that certain aspects of radio communication should be regulated or enforced by state authorities, rather than exclusively by the Federal Communications Commission. Although a portion of the ham radio community supports the concept in some instances, this is dangerous for Amateur Radio operators in the long run.

Various laws have been proposed that would give state authorities the ability to enforce regulations against such things as illegally amplified or modified CB radios and radio interference. On the surface, radio amateurs would seem to benefit from such laws, but once the states have the power to control certain aspects of electronic communication, it is a slippery slope leading to further infringement of radio operators' privileges.

In the past some state jurisdictions enacted laws prohibiting scanners in one form or another, challenging ham operators' use of their legal VHF and UHF equipment. Although the FCC eventually rectified this situation, these laws initially placed Amateur Radio operators at odds with state regulations. Recently the Iowa legislature enacted an "eavesdropping" statute making the monitoring of *any* nonbroadcast electronic communication a class-D felony (see "DC Currents," September 1999 QST). The FCC will probably act to ensure that this law does not impact ham radio, but it represents an increasing desire by the states to regulate electronic communication.

The Amateur Radio community must resist this "regulation creep" by opposing any delegation of radio communication control to the states. State regulation of antenna structures in the past has taught us well that state legislators are not always benevolent toward Amateur Radio. *Jeffrey L. Baker, WK3U, ARRL Volunteer Counsel, Miami, Florida*

CW FRUSTRATION

I am writing this letter out of frustration with the CW exams. More than 20 years ago I attempted to learn Morse code in order to obtain my Novice license. I tried for several years without success.

With the advent of the codeless Technician license I finally was able to become a ham. I passed the written exam after a month of studying. Within a few months, however, I became bored with VHF. I decided to buckle down and try to learn Morse again so that I could explore the HF bands. After *several thousand hours* of practice and three attempts, I passed the 5-WPM exam. My Technician Plus ticket now gives me at least partial access to HF. Of course, I want to go further up the license ladder and obtain full HF privileges.

I consider myself a relatively smart person. I'm 42 years old, have a graduate degree, and have always been able to accomplish whatever I set my mind to. Attempting to learn Morse is the most difficult thing I have ever done, and it has ruined Amateur Radio for me. The struggle to

advance in this hobby has turned into pure drudgery. I haven't switched my radio on in months.!

In the interim I've passed my General written exam. I have been attempting to master Morse at 13 WPM, again spending hundreds of hours without success. I admit that I have a bad attitude. I never wanted to know Morse. I don't care about it and never wanted to use it. Morse has made me miserable, and unless I can come to terms with my failure to comprehend the dots and dashes, my equipment is going up for sale.

If you want to get more people interested in Amateur Radio, the solution is simple: Get rid of the CW exam requirements. *Michael P. Anzalone, KB1DQR.*

THEKINDNESS OF STRANGERS

About two years ago a friend and fellow ham, Louis, ZS1HE, was diagnosed with cancer. He fought a brave battle against the disease, but in early September a previously undetected tumor in his brain suddenly caused almost total paralysis. He lost the ability to talk, and only had use of his left hand. Staff at the hospital noticed that he was trying to communicate by tapping what appeared to be Morse code with that hand, but no one on the staff could decipher it.

I suddenly remembered the Morse reader designed by Francesco Morgantini, IK3OIL, which was featured in the August QST. To my dismay, I quickly discovered that I had misplaced my August issue. In an e-mail message to Steve Ford, WB8IMY, QST Managing Editor, I explained the desperate situation and asked if there was some way I could obtain a copy of Francesco's article as quickly as possible.

I expected to receive cost information for ordering a reprint of the article. After all, like most magazines, QST doesn't distribute its material for free. Imagine my surprise when I received the article in Adobe Acrobat PDF format in my e-mail the very next day. It turns out that Steve, along with Jodi Morin, KA1JPA, in the QST production department, had bent the rules for me. With the Acrobat file in hand, I was able to build the reader and get it working quickly.

The story does not have a happy ending, though. In the time it took me to build the reader, Louis's condition worsened and he was placed on morphine, which rendered him unconscious most of the time. Louis finally passed away on September 12.

Even though my help came too late for Louis, this exercise confirmed my conviction that there are still people in the ham community who are willing to go out of their way to help total strangers. I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to Francesco Morgantini, IK3OIL, who designed this simple, useful circuit and generously made it available to those less gifted. *Gustav Kuhn, ZS1NZ, Bothasig, South Africa*

THE SECRET

From the Internet (where else?)

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquillity had long been the talk of the town. A local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage.

"Well, it dates back to our honeymoon," explained the husband. "We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by pack mule. We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, 'that's once.'

"We proceeded a little farther when the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly said, 'that's twice.'

"We hadn't gone a half mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife took a pistol from her pocket and shot him.

"I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, 'that's once.' "

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

This being the last Newsletter before the end of the second millennium I will take this opportunity to dwell on that subject.

I conducted some research on the origin as well as the epoch of our present day Christian or civil calendar, which is used and accepted as standard throughout most of the world. Because of its origin it is sometimes referred to as the "New Style" Julian calendar or Gregorian calendar. The information provided here was compiled from writings of several historians.

The Julian calendar was established by Julius Caesar in the year 46 BC but did not actually become in use until 44 BC. It was a modification of the old Roman Republic calendar which was based on the Lunar cycle. Julius Caesar and his scientists based the then *new* calendar on the time it takes earth to make one rotation around the sun. At that time it was calculated to be 365.25 days. To compensate for the extra ¼ day, every four years (leap year) one day was added. That is still the basis for the present day calendar (with refinements. Eleven of the twelve months would either have 30 or 31 days. February would have either 28 or 29 days depending on whether or not it was leap year.

A major refinement of the Julian calendar was instituted by Pope Gregory XIII in the year 1582. Thus the name of our present day calendar became known as the Gregorian calendar or the "new style" Julian calendar with the epoch being the time of the birth of Jesus Christ (plus or minus a few days). By that time, because the currently accepted length of the year was 365.2422 instead of 365.25 days the Julian calendar had become 10 days out of synchronization with the solar cycle. That was corrected by simply dropping 10 days from the calendar, and was done so that the Spring equinox would fall on March 21.

Pope Gregory's astronomers reduced the number of leap years so that the average length of the civil calendar would be nearer to the natural length of the solar year. In a 400-year cycle they dropped three leap years and reduced the error to 26 seconds a year. They declared that centennial years would *not* be leap years unless they were divisible by 400. Thus, 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not leap years, but 2000 will be. Under this system it takes many years to accumulate a full day. The Gregorian calendar is the calendar in current use in the Western world, both as the civil and Christian ecclesiastical calendar.

There are two schools of thought regarding date of the end of the second and beginning of the third millennium. One has it that the first day of the third millennium is 1/1/2000. The other is that it is 1/1/2001. There are strong arguments for both. Although I have my opinion, I shall not support or refute either. The following is simply food for thought:

The epoch of the calendar is the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. For the purpose of discussion only, if Christ was born 1/1/0000 and was still living when would he be 2000 years old? Would it be 1/1/2000 or 1/1/2001? In a more realistic sense, if a person was born on 1/1/1900, when would he be 100 years old? Would it be 1/1/2000 or 1/1/2001???

73s es 88s and Happy Holidays from Pike W4EPU and Clara KE4YQL •

FOR SALE - OSCILLOSCOPE

DUMONT-FAIRCHILD MOD 766H

DUAL TRACE TYPE 76-02A

DELAYING SWEEP 74-11A

PRICED VERY REASONABLE

PIKE, W4EPU. 269-4208

OCTOBER MINUTES

By Becky, KF4HTB

After the usual opening ceremonies of Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence and introduction of members and guests, New member Ron Dixon was voted on and welcomed into the club.

Coach Canfield, KF4PGU thanked the club for their help in making the Cross Country Track Meet a success, in spite of the rain. He said there were over 5000 people there, and that all-in-all the meet went very well.

Bill, W2SDB performed some new tunes on his harmonica, as well as happy birthday.

Bud reported that the club will judge the boat Parade of Lights again this year. The date of the parade is December 18. He also reported that the club Christmas party will be held on December 11 at the Elks Club.

The election of officers and board of director members went very quickly and smoothly, due to the fact that all of the current officers and board members agreed to run again for 2000. There were some nominations from the floor, but those nominated chose not to run. A motion was made, seconded and carried to list the name of both elected board members and custodian board members in each issue of the news letter.

Clara Abell, KE4YQL passed out ballots for the members to vote their choice for the Ham of the Year award.

Bud reminded everyone that the Christmas parade will be held December 4, and urged all to come out and participate in directing the flow of floats. He also announced that a Technical Committee meeting will be held at Expedient Services on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Club Officers

President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 267-3450
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 407-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

Elected Board Members

Ken Denman, KD4HNW. 269-5711
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Grant Hahne, KF4IGK. 269-6484
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO

Repeater Custodian Board Members

Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

Club Information

Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building
Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Fridays at 2000 hrs 146.910

TREASURERS REPORT

By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 1998	$6634.75
Deposits Year to Date	5198.99
TOTAL INCOME	**$11833.74**
Expenditures	7094.08
BALANCE AS AT 11/30/99	**$4739.66**

Happy Holidays!!

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

Dec 1999

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 234 (161 regular, 55 family, 12 honorary, 6 other)

KG4GDJ ✓

NEW MEMBERS: 00000 RON DIXON

RENEWALS:
KF4BKY JOE HUSSON ✓
KD4GPF JOE MYERS ✓
K4KON BRUCE HOOVER ✓
KU4LJ KEN NADELL ✓
WA4QJK W. T. McCALL ✓
KC4SYD CLIFF HOAG ✓
KU4UD LEONARD ZBIEGIEN ✓
KC4VIO JOSE RAMOS ✓
KC4VIN CAROL RAMOS ✓
AC4WM MITCH MATHENY ✓
K4WSE JOHN WOODS ✓
KAOYSO DAVID JACKSON ✓

HAMFESTS:

12/11	Lake City
1/8-9	Ft. Meyers
1/29	Arcadia
2/5	Pensacola
2/5-6	Miami
2/13-14	Orlando
2/19-29	Sarasota
2/27	Zephyrhills